

duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SMITH, of New Hampshire, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1794. A bill to designate the Federal courthouse at 145 East Simpson Avenue in Jackson, Wyoming, as the "Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. KYL, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 2042. A bill to reform the process by which the Office of the Pardon Attorney investigates and reviews potential exercises of executive clemency; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2043. A bill to designate the United States Post Office building located at 3101 West Sunflower Avenue in Santa Ana, California, as the "Hector G. Godinez Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 2044. A bill to allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for domestic violence programs through the voluntary purchase of specially issued postage stamps; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. MACK, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GORTON, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2045. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to H-1B nonimmigrant aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BREAUX, and Mr. HOLLINGS):

S. 2046. A bill to reauthorize the Next Generation Internet Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. REED, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2047. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to create a Heating Oil Reserve to be available for use when fuel oil prices in the United States rise sharply because of anti-competitive activity, during a fuel oil shortage, or during periods of extreme winter weather; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 2048. A bill to establish the San Rafael Western Legacy District in the State of

Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. 2049. A bill to extend the authorization for the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 2050. A bill to establish a panel to investigate illegal gambling on college sports and to recommend effective countermeasures to combat this serious national problem; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. FITZGERALD):

S. Res. 255. A resolution recognizing and honoring Bob Collins, and expressing the condolences of the Senate to his family on his death; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. KYL, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 2042. A bill to reform the process by which the Office of the Pardon Attorney investigates and reviews potential exercises of executive clemency; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE PARDON ATTORNEY REFORM AND INTEGRITY ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill that will help restore public confidence in the Department of Justice by reforming the way that the Office of Pardon Attorney investigates candidates for executive clemency. This bill, the Hatch-Nickles-Abraham Pardon Attorney Reform and Integrity Act, which is co-sponsored by Senators LOTT, THURMOND, KYL, ASHCROFT, SESSIONS, SMITH of New Hampshire, and COVERDELL, addresses the problems that led to the widespread public outrage at the Department of Justice's role in President Clinton's decision last September to release 11 Puerto Rican nationalist terrorists from prison.

The beneficiaries of President Clinton's grant of clemency were convicted terrorists who belong to violent Puerto Rican independence groups called the FALN and Los Macheteros. They were in prison for a seditious conspiracy that included the planting of over 130 bombs in public places in the United States, including shopping malls and restaurants. That bombing spree—which killed several people, injured many others and caused vast property damage—remains the most prolific terrorist campaign within our borders in United States history.

The Judiciary Committee has thoroughly investigated the facts and circumstances surrounding the decision to release those terrorists from prison. We read thousands of documents produced by the Department of Justice and the White House. We interviewed law enforcement officials knowledgeable about the FALN and Los Macheteros organizations. We spoke to victims, and we held two hearings on the many issues raised by the grant of clemency. Our investigation has led me to a very troubling conclusion: the Justice Department ignored its own rules for handling clemency matters, exercised very poor judgment in ignoring the opinions of law enforcement and victims, and sacrificed its integrity by bowing to political pressure to modify its original recommendation against clemency.

I do not come to this conclusion lightly. I base it on an examination of the facts. The facts show that the clemency recipients were never asked for information relevant to open investigations or the apprehension of fugitives—despite the fact that one of their co-defendants, Victor Gerena, is on the FBI's "ten most wanted" list. Many of the killings associated with the FALN bombings, including the infamous Fraunces Tavern bombing, remain unsolved. The failure to ask for such information from the clemency recipients, several of whom held leadership positions in the FALN, means that the rest of the perpetrators of those crimes may never be brought to justice. My legislation will require the Justice Department to notify law enforcement of pending clemency requests, and to assess whether a proposed clemency recipient could have information on open investigations and fugitives.

Our investigation also revealed that the White House and the Justice Department ignored the many victims of FALN crimes, even while senior officials were holding numerous meetings with the terrorists' advocates for clemency. While top government officials actually gave strategic advice to the terrorists, no one lifted a finger to find, interview, or even notify the victims about the pending clemency request. My legislation would help ensure that the Justice Department remembers who it is supposed to be working for by requiring it to notify and seek input from victims.

Finally, a disturbing connection has come to light between the FALN, Los Macheteros and the Cuban government. Jorge Masetti, a former Cuban intelligence agent, has stated that Cuba helped Los Macheteros to plan and execute the \$7.1 million Wells Fargo robbery—the biggest cash heist in US history—by providing funding, training and assistance in smuggling the money out of the country. Some sources estimate that 4 million dollars from the robbery ended up in Cuba. We don't